



Lincoln Business Watch

THE “NET”



Spring Issue '07

Robbery; It's Bad Business For Everyone

Unfortunately, Lincoln saw its first bank robbery of 2007 recently. Shortly after 9:30 in the morning on April 3rd two parties walked into the Tier One Bank at 3939 Normal. Both were armed with handguns. The parties were inside of the business for a short period of time then fled on foot to a vehicle that had been parked outside. It is important to be prepared in the event you or your business become the victim of a robbery. Here are a few helpful reminders to keep in mind. Discuss with employees a plan to be carried out in the event of a robbery. Restaurants, convenience stores and liquor stores, grocery stores and hotels have all at some point in time been victimized by robbery; no-one is off the hook.

GENERAL PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Train all employees on what to do in case of a robbery.
- Make sure the camera and alarm systems are working properly and are always on. If using a video tape replace it periodically.
- Record the serial numbers of several bills to have as “bait” money in the cash register
- Keep windows free from obstruction.
- Ensure that all rear and side doors are locked and well lit.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at your business.
- Be alert and aware of any people on the business property.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Race
- Age
- Height/weight
- Scars/tattoos
- Hairstyle - color & length
- Facial characteristics - beard, mustache, glasses
- Clothing
- Type of gun - revolver, semi automatic, shotgun
- Car - make, model, color, year, license #, clean, dirty, damage

WHAT TO DO DURING A ROBBERY:

- Do not do anything to jeopardize your personal safety or the safety of other employees or customers.
- Comply with the demands of the robber.
- Consider all firearms real and loaded.
- Keep any note the robber may hand you. Put it to the side or drop it on the floor.
- Get a description of the robber.
- Do not chase the robber.

TORNADO SEASON IS HERE....Do you have a plan?

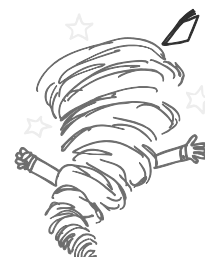
Lincoln has been very lucky over the years not to have been devastated by a tornado. We need to be prepared for the unexpected and hope it never happens. A tornado can hit quickly, you need to have a plan in place.

What to do before tornadoes threaten:

- Tornado watch: Tornadoes are possible, remain alert for approaching storms.
- Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately
- Determine places to seek shelter at your place of business. Make sure all employees know where to go.
 - *Basement is the best place to go, but if a basement is not available then go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Go to the center of the room, avoid corners because they attract debris.
 - *Avoid places with wide span roofs, such as, auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, supermarkets or shopping centers.
 - *Get under a sturdy table or desk putting your arms up to protect you neck and head.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.
- Have a first aid kit available which includes: Flashlight, water, battery operated radio, blankets, sterile dressing, bandaging materials, antibiotic ointment.

Tornado facts:

- A tornado may strike with little warning.
- A tornado may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast but have been know to move in any direction.
- Forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from stationary to 70 mph w/rotating winds that can reach 300 mph.
- Tornadoes most likely occur between 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., but can occur at any time of the day and night.
- Before a tornado hits the wind may die down & the air may become very still.



"The NET"

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 S. 10th Street

Return Service Requested

GENERAL SECURITY TIPS:

When closing your business:

- Leave cash register drawer open and empty
- If you have a safe, limit the number of people who have the combination, change it if someone quits.
- Keep a list of people who have keys. If someone quits, make sure the key is returned; if there is a question, re-key the locks.
- If you don't have a safe, hide the money in an unexpected container and place.
- Make daily deposits and alter the times deposits are made.
- When leaving secure all windows and doors. Make sure landscaping is trimmed; bushes should be no higher than 3' and trees should be no lower than 6'.
- If you sell cigarettes and you're not a 24-hour business, secure cigarettes by placing a cage or cabinet around them so they aren't as visible and to make cigarettes less a target for theft.
- If you're using an outside shed for storage, use a padlock with a short shackle so bolt cutters can't cut it. Put lighting out by the shed.



CRIME TRENDS

Between 1-1-07 thru 3-31-07 the police department has handled 32,431 calls for service. This is a 4.2% increase in calls for service than in the same time frame last year. See below for the crime trends in your area. The first number will be the number of reported incidents. The second number is how many incidents have been cleared with an arrest.

NORTHWEST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 2/0
Commercial Burglary - 12/3
Shoplifting - 98/74
Forgery - 83/70

CENTER TEAM

Com. Robbery - 6/3
Com. Burglary - 14/0
Shoplifting - 20/13
Forgery - 31/29

NORTHEAST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 0/0
Commercial Burglary - 38/13
Shoplifting - 169/140
Forgery - 80/74

SOUTHWEST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 1/0
Commercial Burglary - 20/3
Shoplifting - 55/45
Forgery - 58/42

SOUTHEAST TEAM

Commercial Robbery - 3/1
Commercial Burglary - 24/8
Shoplifting - 89/68
Forgery - 43/33

